

- More than one in four (28%) of students had someone offer, sell or give them an illegal drug on school property during the 12 months prior to the 1997 survey - more than 1 in 3 boys (34%) and 1 in 4 girls (23%).

Source: YRBSS, Tennessee Department of Education, 1997.

Youth Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use, 1997, YRBSS¹⁵

TOBACCO USE

- Lifetime prevalence of cigarette smoking among Tennessee high school students surveyed in 1997 was 74%. Similar proportions of males and females were smokers (77% of males and 72% of females).
- In 1997, 30-day smoking rates were 39%, with 40% of males and 38% of females smoking currently. Current smoking increased with grade level such that 34%-36% of 9-10 graders reported smoking compared to 41% of 11th graders and 47% of 12th graders.
- Twenty-nine percent of smokers smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13, with more males than females doing so and more 9th graders than upper grade students.
- Thirteen percent of students usually obtained their own cigarettes by buying them in a store or gas station during the past 30 days; 15% of males and 11% of females did so. As grade level increased, students were more likely to get their cigarettes from stores or gas stations (6% in 9th grade, 9% in 10th grade, 14% in 11th grade and fully 30% in 12th grade).
- Overall, 12% of high school students were not asked to show proof of age when buying cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days. No sex differences were observed, but students in the 12th grade (15%) were slightly more likely to be asked for proof of age than 9th graders (13%).
- Finally, 39% of students tried to quit smoking cigarettes. This suggests that a very high percentage of students were contemplating and attempting to quit smoking. Similar proportions of male and female students had tried to quit smoking. Only a slightly smaller percentage of 9th graders (37%) than higher grade students (40%-41%) had tried to quit.

¹⁵Due to differences in sampling design and study protocol, data will differ despite similar questions in the YRBSS for 1995 and 1997 and the Tennessee ATOD High School Survey, 1995/1997.